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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/935,466 08/20/01 O'HAGAN D 2300-1397.01

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EXAMINER

BROWN, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1648

DATE MAILED:

10/31/01

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/935,466

Applicant(s)

O'HAGAN ET AL.

Examiner

Stacy S Brown

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to **Group Art Unit 1648**.
2. Applicant's preliminary amendment is acknowledged and entered. Claims 1-30 are pending and examined.

Specification

3. The use of the trademarks Span 85® and Tween 80® have been noted in this application. They should be capitalized wherever they appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 4, 11-13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims contain the trademark/trade names Span 85® and Tween 80®. Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of

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goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or trade name. In the present case, the trademark/trade name is used to identify/describe polyoxyethylene sorbitan mooleate and sorbitan trioleate and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 14-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a method of inducing an immune response, does not reasonably provide enablement for a method of immunization. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

It is well known in the art that retroviral infections in general, and HIV infections in particular, are refractory to anti-viral therapies. The obstacles to therapy of HIV are well documented in the literature. These obstacles include: 1) the extensive genomic diversity and mutation rate associated with the HIV retrovirus, particularly with respect to the gene encoding the envelope protein; 2) the fact that the modes of viral transmission include both virus-infected mononuclear cells, which pass the infecting virus to other cells in a covert manner, as well as via free virus transmission; 3) the existence of a latent form of the virus; 4) the ability of the virus to evade immune responses in the central nervous system due to the blood-brain barrier; and 5) the complexity and variation of the pathology of HIV infection in different individuals. The

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existence of these obstacles establish that the contemporary knowledge in the art would not allow one skilled in the art to use the claimed invention with a reasonable expectation of success and without undue experimentation.

Further, it is well known in the art that individuals infected with HIV produce neutralizing antibodies to the virus, yet these antibodies are not protective and do not prevent the infection from progressing to its lethal conclusion. Further, as taught by Fahey et al. (Status of immune-based therapies in HIV infection and AIDS, *Clin. Exp. Immunol.*, (1992) Vol. 88, pp. 1-5), clinical trials using a variety of immunologically based therapies have not yielded successful results in the treatment and/or prevention of HIV infection (see Table 1). The failure of all immune-system-boosting therapies for treating AIDS is further discussed by Fox (No winners against AIDS, *Bio/Technology*, (1994) Vol. 12, p. 128). The teachings of Fahey et al. and Fox are further confirmed by Haynes et al. (Update on the Issues of HIV Vaccine Development, The Finnish Medical Society DUODECIM, *Ann Med* (1996) Vol. 28, pp. 39-41.). Haynes et al. teach the major scientific obstacles blocking development of HIV vaccines (see page 40, first column, second full paragraph). Further, Haynes et al. teach that "Current animal models of either HIV or simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) fall short of precisely mirroring human HIV infection" and that "lacking these models, researchers must turn towards human clinical trials to answer many of the difficult questions about HIV pathogenesis and HIV vaccine development" (see page 40, first column, third full paragraph). Thus, it is clear from the evidence of Fahey et al., Fox, and Haynes et al. that the ability to prevent HIV infection is highly unpredictable and has met with very little success.

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Applicants have not provided any convincing evidence that their claimed invention is indeed useful as a preventative for HIV infection and have not provided sufficient guidance to allow one skilled in the art to practice the claimed invention with a reasonable expectation of success and without undue experimentation. In the absence of such guidance and evidence, the specification fails to provide an enabling disclosure.

Suggested language for claims 14-27 is "a method of inducing an immune response". It should be noted that if such language is used, the claims will be rejected under obviousness type double patenting, see below.

Double Patenting

5. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 12-14 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,086,901. This is a double patenting rejection.

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686

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F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-13 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,086,901. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant invention is drawn to a genus of the species claimed in the patent. The instant invention is drawn to a composition comprising a submicron oil-in-water emulsion, and a selected antigen entrapped in, or adsorbed to, a biodegradable microparticle, and the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,086,901 are drawn to a composition comprising a submicron oil-in-water emulsion immunological adjuvant, and a selected antigen entrapped in, or adsorbed to, a biodegradable microparticle. The difference between the claims is that the patent is claiming that the emulsion is an immunological adjuvant, while the instant application is claiming only an emulsion, without specifying that it is an immunological adjuvant. However, it is clear from the specification that the emulsion is an immunological adjuvant; further, the composition itself contains antigen, which also indicates that the emulsion is used as an immunological adjuvant. With regard to the selected antigen being gp120 or p24gag, it would have been obvious to use these antigenic surface glycoproteins in the composition because they were well known in the art at the time the invention was made to induce an immune response.

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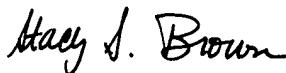
7. Claims 14-27 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,306,405 (US Application number 09/564,414). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims are drawn to a method of immunization, and the patented claims are drawn to a method of inducing an immune response. The method of immunization induces an immune response; therefore the invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Conclusion


8. No claim is allowed. The claims are free of the prior art.

Papers relating to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 located in Crystal Mall 1. The Fax number for Art Unit 1648 is (703) 308-4426. All Group 1600 Fax machines will be available to receive transmissions 24 hrs/day, 7 days/wk. Please note that the faxing of such papers must conform with the Notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30, (November 15, 1989).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Stacy S. Brown, whose telephone number is (703) 308-2361. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday and alternate Wednesdays from 6:30 AM-4:00 PM, (EST). If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, James C. Housel, can be reached at (703) 308-4027. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.



Stacy S. Brown
October 30, 2001



HANKYEL T. PARK, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER